

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 108033

62

ORIGIN OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-07 EPA-04 NRC-07 FEA-01

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-03 USIA-15 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FRB-01 ACDA-10 /124 R

DRAFTED BY OES/SCI/AE:JBLOOM:MER

APPROVED BY OES/SCI/AE:JBLOOM

OES/EN - G. BURKE

EA/J - C. DUNKERLEY

ERDA - MR. MCDONOUGH

----- 072050

R 082304Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 108033

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR EPA LETTER RE LMFBR PROGRAM

REF: TOKYO 5723

1. EPA LETTER PLUS OFFICIAL EPA COMMENTS TO ERDA BEING
AIR POUCHED BY DEPT.

2. ALTHOUGH NECESSARY TO READ ENTIRE LETTER AND ATTENDANT
DETAILED EPA COMMENTS TO GET PROPER CONTEXT, FOLLOWING
PERTINENT PARAS FROM LETTER QUOTED FOR PRELIMINARY
GUIDANCE:

3. QUOTE. IN SPITE OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL AND
ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES, EPA HAS NOT UNCOVERED ANY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 108033

EVIDENCE OF RESOLVABLE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

WHICH MIGHT PRECLUDE LMFBR COMMERCIALIZATION. THUS, WE SEE NO REASON FOR ABANDONING PRESENT AND PLANNED DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORTS. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO PRESERVE FLEXIBILITY FOR FUTURE ENERGY DECISIONS, WE ENCOURAGE ERDA TO CONTINUE (AND EXPAND WHERE NECESSARY) SUBSTANTIVE EXPLORATION OF FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES SO THAT THESE WILL BE IN A SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED STATE OF DEVELOPMENT, SHOULD LMFBR COMMERCIALIZATION NOT BE POSSIBLE.

THE PFES ANTICIPATES A DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM THAT PROGRESSES RAPIDLY TO COMMERCIALIZATION IN ORDER TO CAPTURE THE ASSUMED BENEFITS OF BREEDER TECHNOLOGY. HOWEVER, IN OUR OPINION, THE LMFBR WOULD NOT BE RENDERED SIGNIFICANTLY LESS ECONOMIC RELATIVE TO OTHER ENERGY ALTERNATIVES SHOULD PROBLEMS DELAY THE ONSET OF COMMERCIALIZATION. RECENT DOWNWARD TRENDS IN ENERGY DEMAND PROJECTIONS, IN PARTICULAR, APPEAR TO REDUCE THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECT OF DELAY ON PROGRAM BENEFITS. FOR EXAMPLE, USING THE LATEST DEMAND PROJECTIONS OF PROJECT INDEPENDENCE OUR PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS INDICATE THAT A DELAY OF 4 TO 12 YEARS MIGHT BE ACCOMMODATED WITHOUT SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING THE URANIUM CONSERVATION VALUE OF THE BREEDER. THIS SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS INDICATING THAT EPA IS NECESSARILY ADVOCATING A DELAY, BUT THAT SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE EXISTS TO WARRANT RE-EXAMINATION OF LMFBR TIMING ASSUMPTIONS.

IF IT IS ESTABLISHED THAT ADDITIONAL TIME IS INDEED AVAILABLE FOR ERDA TO CONSIDER LMFBR DECISIONS, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE MERITS OF PROGRAM RESCHEDULING. PRESENT SCHEDULING INDICATES THAT WE BELIEVE TO BE HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC ASSUMPTIONS CONCERNING THE TIME AND EFFORT NEEDED FOR ADEQUATE RESOLUTIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY PROBLEMS. IF THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM WERE NOT TIED TO THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE FOR COMMERCIALIZATION, ADDITIONAL TIME WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO SEEK THE BEST SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS AND TO OPTIMIZE THE OVERALL PROGRAM BY UTILIZING NEW AND POSSIBLY CHANGING INFORMATION RELATIVE TO FUTURE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 108033

URANIUM SUPPLY AND ENERGY DEMAND. FURTHER, ALTHOUGH THE PFES ADEQUATELY CONSIDERS POSSIBLE NUCLEAR AND NON-NUCLEAR ALTERNATIVES (BASED ON CURRENT INFORMATION), ADDITIONAL TIME COULD BE USED TO ADVANTAGE TO REFUND SUCH CONSIDERATIONS AND, THUS, POSSIBLY IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. UNQUOTE.

4. POST MAY HEAR FURTHER FROM ERDA ON THIS MATTER. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, URANIUM, NUCLEAR REACTORS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE108033
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JBLOOM:MER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750162-0868
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750568/aaaackev.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TOKYO 5723
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUL 2003 by BalzMJ>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR EPA LETTER RE LMFBR PROGRAM
TAGS: TECH, JA, EPA
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006